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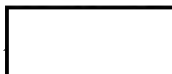
Executive Registry

10-9838

20 DEC 1958

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Honorable Richard B. Russell, *Chairman*
Senate Armed Services Committee
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Russell:

Having in mind the convening of the 86th Congress in the near future, I would like to bring to your attention several thoughts concerning Agency appearances before the CIA Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee. As in the past, I shall continue to make myself available to respond to the wishes of the Chairman and the Subcommittee members.

Very early in the coming session, possibly in January, I would like to appear before the Subcommittee to present a briefing which will deal in considerable detail with the Agency's activities, operations, and some of its accomplishments. It is expected that this briefing would last no more than two hours. I suggest that we be permitted to conduct this briefing reserving questions until its completion, at which time I and other members of my staff would be glad to respond to questions.

At the end of this presentation or at another meeting, I would be glad to furnish an intelligence briefing concerning recent events and a general status report. However, it is my belief that a briefing on the Agency itself is highly desirable to enable the Subcommittee members more effectively to judge the progress of the Agency. The scope and content of such a briefing have been discussed with Mr. William Darden.

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Congress

Since three of the five members of the CIA Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee are also members of the CIA Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I suggest for your consideration a joint meeting of the two Subcommittees for the briefing on Agency activities. Consequently, a joint meeting would involve only two additional Senators. In the meantime, if there is any way the Agency can be of assistance to the Subcommittee, please let us know.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

OGC/LC:JSW:mks:jeb

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11 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. William Darden, Senate Armed Services Committee

1. In discussing with Mr. Darden the Agency proposal for a briefing on CIA activities, Mr. Darden indicated his view that this was very desirable and he thought the Chairman would readily agree to it. He also responded to the suggestion that this might be combined with the CIA Senate Appropriations Subcommittee in view of the fact that only two additional Senators would potentially be involved.
2. Mr. Darden was advised that the Director proposed to address a letter to Senator Russell on this subject. Mr. Darden also suggested that such a briefing should be accomplished very early in the session. In connection with the possibility of the Director meeting with Senator Russell, Mr. Darden suggested the week after Christmas as a desirable time and if not then, the week of 1 January prior to Congress convening.
3. Mr. Darden indicated that lack of official noting of Subcommittee meetings was a precedent established over the years and he saw no reason why the fact of meeting could not be recorded in the normal manner of other Subcommittees if the Agency desired it. He further indicated that Armed Services Subcommittees normally did not report to the full Committee except on specific bills.



Legislative Counsel

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Items to be Discussed with Senator Richard B. Russell

For assistance in your discussion with Senator Russell, I have attempted to list in summary form the various points which should be discussed. These are not necessarily listed in the order of priority.

1. The request by Mr. Cannon that the Appropriations Subcommittee be briefed on a continuing basis as a specific example of the briefing problem generally. You will recall that Mr. Cannon's request has not been answered and various methods have been considered. It was generally agreed that it would probably be undesirable to circulate the weekly bulletin or other types of intelligence reports. However, it was suggested that you could make an initial presentation at the early part of the session concerning world affairs and offer to provide periodic briefings at the pleasure of the Subcommittee. It was also suggested that Mr. Cannon designate someone on the staff who could be briefed periodically as the Agency saw fit or as otherwise determined to be appropriate.

2. Discussions with other Senate leaders. You will also wish to discuss with Senator Russell the desirability of a joint meeting to include Senators Russell, Johnson, Bridges, Hayden, Saltonstall and possibly Dirksen to discuss the forthcoming session and the requests of the various committees for briefings. You may also wish to raise the possibility of measures being introduced in the Senate for a "Watch Dog" Committee.

3. The matter of a substantive briefing of the Senate CIA Subcommittee of Armed Services which was the subject of a letter to Senator Russell including the possibility of a joint meeting for this purpose with the Subcommittees of Armed Services and Appropriations. It is believed appropriate that you might mention to Senator Russell that you are desirous of briefing the Subcommittee on Agency operations, activities and accomplishments and that in this connection we would propose that the Subcommittee allow us sufficient time shortly after the beginning of Congress to put on our prepared presentation on this subject. Somewhat related to the above is the question of what actions should be taken by the Armed Services Subcommittee. The first point would be the question of a formal announcement of the appointment of the CIA Subcommittees. Secondly, I believe it appropriate to ask Senator Russell to consider the question of official noting by the Subcommittee of the fact of appearances by CIA.

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10-9838/1

19 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Actions to be taken with Senator Richard B. Russell

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the Director of Central Intelligence. Such requested action is contained in paragraphs 2 and 4.
2. Attached is a proposed letter for your signature to Senator Russell. The letter requests the opportunity for the Agency to present a briefing on its activities and operations early in the coming session. The letter contains the further suggestion that the meeting might be a joint meeting of the CIA Subcommittee of Senate Appropriations and Senate Armed Services since three of the Armed Services Subcommittee members are also members of the CIA Appropriations Subcommittee.
3. Also attached is a Memorandum for the Record of my conversation with Mr. William Darden in which the subject of this briefing was discussed in some detail. The fact of this discussion is noted in the proposed letter. In addition, the memorandum records the discussions relating to officially noting the establishment of the Subcommittee and the fact of its meetings.
4. I have also attached for your use a list of the matters which you may wish to discuss with Senator Russell when you meet with him. Senator Russell is planning to return to Washington right after Christmas and in view of your own schedule it might be possible for you to meet with Senator Russell on either the 5th or 6th of January.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

Attached is a proposed letter for your signature to Senator Russell proposing a briefing on Agency activities before the CIA Subcommittee of Senate Armed Services. The matter has been discussed with Mr. Darden and the memo of conversation is also attached. Senator Russell will be in town the week preceding the convening of Congress and if you are able to see him then, there is attached a list of items for your discussion with him.


Legislative Counsel19 December 1958
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